

Serial No. 09/614,719
Amdt. dated July 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2004

Docket No. P-106

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-16, 18-31, 33-36 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 10, 16, 28 and 33 are amended and claims 11, 17, 22 and 37 are canceled. The specification has been amended to correct a minor spelling error and contains no new matter. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 2-5, 9, 11-15, 17-27, 32 and 37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant has amended the subject claim and now respectfully submits that the above amendments obviate the grounds for the rejection.

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The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,266,781 to Chung et al. (hereinafter Chung). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1 for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution. Therefore, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and therefore also defines patentable subject matter.

Similarly, for rejected claim 10, subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 11 is incorporated into claim 10. Also, for claim 16, subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 17 is incorporated. Therefore, claims 10 and 16 defines patentable subject matter. As for claim 28, subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 32 is incorporated. Therefore, claim 28 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 29-31 depend from claim 28 and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Lastly, for claim 33, subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 37 is incorporated for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution. Therefore, claim 33 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 34-36 depend from claim 33 and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 28 and 33 define patentable subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 28 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

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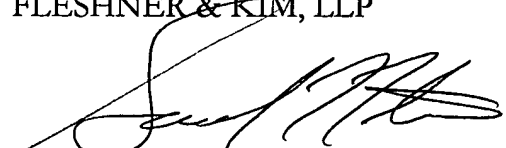
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Samuel W. Ntiros**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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